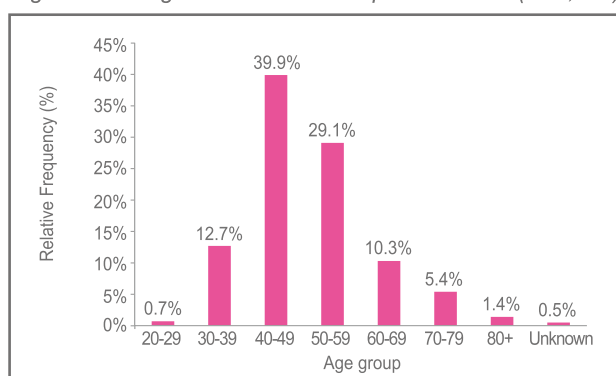


1.1 Demographic data

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in Hong Kong. It is rare in males. Mean and median age at diagnosis was 50.3 years and 48.8 years in the patient cohort respectively (range: 24.2 -101.4 years), with the majority (69.0%) of patients aged between 40 and 59 (Figure 1.1.1).

Figure 1.1.1 Age distribution of the patient cohort (N=2,330)



Relatively higher education level and income level were observed in the patient cohort. About 35% were professionals or clerical workers. The participants recruited in the Registry lived in various districts throughout the territory: 21.3% in Hong Kong Island, 27.5% in Kowloon, and 47.6% in the New Territories (Table 1.1.1).

Table 1.1.1 Sociodemographic characteristics and geographic locations of the patient cohort (N=2,330)

	Number (%)		Number (%)
Sex		Education level	
Female	2,327 (99.9%)	No schooling/ kindergarten	105 (4.5%)
Male	3 (0.1%)	Primary school	456 (19.6%)
Marital status		Secondary school	1,090 (46.8%)
Never married	332 (14.2%)	Matriculation or above	619 (26.6%)
Married	1,734 (74.4%)	Unknown	60 (2.5%)
Divorced/ widowed/ cohabitating	237 (10.2%)	Monthly household income	
Unknown	27 (1.2%)	< \$10,000	173 (7.4%)
Occupation		\$10,000 - 29,999	443 (19.0%)
Professional/ clerical	816 (35.0%)	≥ \$30,000	626 (26.9%)
Non-clerical/ labour	320 (13.7%)	Unknown	1,088 (46.7%)
Housewife	749 (32.1%)	Residence district	
Self-employed	76 (3.3%)	Hong Kong Island	496 (21.3%)
Retired/ unemployed	233 (10.0%)	Kowloon	640 (27.5%)
Unknown	136 (5.9%)	New Territories	1,110 (47.6%)
		Unknown	84 (3.6%)